public interest to disclose the detailed break-up of such spar$_e$ capacities.

(c) Steps taken in this behalf include—|

(i) Diversification into areas of manufacture of items required by non-Defence users, such as Railways, Central and State police and Security Forces, Public Sector Undertakings, etc. and

(ii) Export of Ordinance Factory products to foreign countries.

Jobs to Widows Dependants **of IPKF Personnel killed in Sri Lanka**

1538. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total number of IPKF personnel killed in Sri Lanka;

(b) what is the total number of Widows and dependants of the IPKF who have been offered jobs and alternative sources of employment; and

(c) whether any time bound progam-me has been made for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA); (a) 1157 (including 34 personnel reported missing and presumed killed).

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Up to two dependants of Defence Service personnel killed/disabled in action, including war widows, are entitled to Priority II (a) (disabled over 50 per cent disability and unfit for employment, but disability attributable to military service) for the purposes of employment against Group 'C and ' posts under the Central Government. In respect of IPKF casualties, as a special dispensation, Government have issued guidelines, as follows, to various Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings:—

(i) priority for employment to be given to disable personnel for employment under Government, over other normal cases of ex-Servicemen under against vacancies reserved for them;

(ii) priority and compassionate appointment to dependants of IPKF personnnl killed in Sri Lanka operations with suitable relevation *to the* extent possible, especially regarding criteria for consideration of terminal benefits received, while assessing need for such appointment.

Abolition of special status of Public Schools

1539. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently formulated any scheme to abolish th© Special status of the Public Schools in the country;

(b) whether Government also propose to ensure higher standard of education to all the school-going children in the country without any consideration of caste, creed or status;

(c) whether Government would allow admission to school-going children in the nearest school in the locality irrespective of the fact whether it is a Public School or Municipal School; and

(d) if so what are the details in this regard and if not, the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA); (a) to (d) The Public schools have not been accorded any special status by the Government. Therefore, the question of abolishing the special status does not arise.

The National Policy on Education, 1986 recommended the establishment of a national system of education implying that up to a given level, all students irrespective of caste, creed, **location** or